

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5696

S E C R E T DAMASCUS 5208

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, UN, SY, PLO

SUBJ: PLO PLANNING FOR SC DEBATE

1. YUGOSLAV AMBASSADOR PEKIC DISCUSSED DEC 30 CURRENT STATE OF THINKING IN PLO LEADERSHIP CIRCLES CONCERNING JANUARY 12 DEBATE. TOLD US HE HAD THREE-HOUR TALK DEC 28 WITH HEAD OF PLO MILITARY BUREAU/SAIQA LEADER ZUHAYR MUHSIN TOGETHER WITH PLO SPOKESMAN ABU MAYZAR. THEY SAID PLO INTENDED LEAD OFF IN NEW YORK WITH HISTORICAL REVIEW OF UN RESOLUTIONS AFFECTING PALESTINIANS, BEGINNING WITH THAT ADVOCATING PARTITION. THEY EXPECT ANY RESOLUTION EMERGING FROM SC DEBATE TO INCLUDE FOLLOWING ELEMENTS:

A. RIGHT OF PALESTINIAN RETURN, AS MATTER OF PRINCIPLE;

B. RIGHT OF SELF-DETERMINATION;

C. INDEPENDENT PALESTINIAN STATE IN PALESTINE;

D. PLO IS LEGAL REPRESENTATIVE OF PALESTINIAN PEOPLE.

2. ABU MAYZAR AND MUHSIN TOLD PEKIC THAT THEY HAD NOT YET FORMALIZED ABOVE ELEMENTS INTO DRAFT RESOLUTION. THEY EXPRESSED HOPE OF REACHING UNDERSTANDING

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WITH USG ON INCLUDING THESE ELEMENTS. THEY

REPORTEDLY AGREED WITH PEKIC'S ADVICE TO AVOID
POLEMICS AT UN DEBATE.

3. PEKIC WAS INTRIGUED BY MUHSIN'S AND ABU MAYZAR'S
DETERMINATION TO AVOID POLICY OF CONFRONTING US AT
UN. THEY NOTED THAT THEY
DO NOT EXPECT MAJOR US INITIATIVE IN 1976 BECAUSE OF
OUR PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS, BUT THEY ARE ANXIOUS THAT
COMING YEAR NOT BE LOST. THEY BELIEVE SOME PROGRESS
CAN BE MADE WHILE WAITING MAJOR US INITIATIVE IN
1977. THEY INDICATED TO PEKIC THAT THEY INTEND
TALK OF A FUTURE PALESTINE WHICH WOULD PROVIDE A
HOME FOR ALL PALESTINIANS REGARDLESS OF RELIGION.
BUT THEY WOULD ADD THEY EXPECTED PRACTICAL AND PEACEFUL
STEPS FOR SUCH A STATE MUST AWAIT DECISION OF FUTURE
GENERATION OF YOUNG ISRAELIS AND ARABS.

4. PEKIC CAUTIONED THAT FOREGOING DOES NOT REPRESENT
FINAL PLO DECISIONS ABOUT ITS TACTICS IN NEW YORK.
HE EXPECTS TO MEET WITH PLO FOREIGN AFFAIRS
SPOKESMAN KADDUMI WITHIN NEXT FEW DAYS TO RECEIVE MORE
DEFINITIVE PRESENTATION OF PLO THINKING. SAID HE WOULD
CONTACT US AGAIN AFTER THAT MEETING.
MURPHY

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NNN

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